(a) whether it is a fact that Beechcraft was purchased by the Railways during the last year and if so, at what cost and what is the expenditure incurred so far and maintenance and operation of the said aircraft, upto the end of March, 1995;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Railways during the last three years on account of hiring of commercial aircrafts; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance was consulted before the purchase of the aircraft and if so, the details thereof; if not, what are the reasons therefor and at what level the decision for the purchase was taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. A Beechcraft aircraft was purchased by IRCON in May, 1994 at a cost of US$ 4.46 million (Rs. 14.05 crores). Its operations and maintenance cost upto the end of 31st March, 1995 has come to Rs. 2.39 crores.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have independent budget which is vetted by a Financial Commissioner who is a representative of Ministry of Finance. The proposal for purchase of the aircraft was a new service/new instrument of service, for which approval of Parliament was obtained through a Supplementary Demand for Grants (1993-94) in August, '93. This is in accordance with the extant instructions issued by Ministry of Finance.

Provision of Coal Wagons at Talcher Coal Fields

8087. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aw are of frequent shut-downs at Rai chur Thermal Power Station due t erratic supply of coal from Singaren Colleries, attributed to poor linka despite prompt payment by RTPS t coal Companies|Railways;

(b) whether Government have re ceived any request from the Karna taka Government to provide adequ te coal wagons at Talcher Coa Fields for speedy movement to RTP in order to establish an alternat source of coal supply; and

(c) whether Government woul provide all rail movement of coa from Talcher to Raichur, to enabl the RTPS to function to its rate capacity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a to (c) There has been no communi cation regarding shut down at Ra chur Thermal Power Station fo shortage of coal. Due to strike i Singareni coal fields since mid Apr '95 to first week of May '95 coal mo vement from Singareni Coal field was seriously affected. Railways moved larger quantities from WCL SECL and MCL Coalfields and ensur ed 100 per cent compliance durin April 95 and 90 per cent compliance in May 95. Input could not b stepped up further due to inabilit of the Power House to unload wagon expeditiously. It is Railways' endea vour to move coal as per linkage san ctioned by Standing Linkage Commit tee which also includes movemen from Talcher.

Non-reflection of Railways Reserve Funds in the Annual Accounts

8088. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Accumulated Depreciation Fund, Reserve Fund Revenue Reserve Fund, Developmen